

Be it known that **David M. Stern, Ann Marie Schmidt, Shi Du Yan, and Berislav Zlokovic**

have invented certain new and useful improvements in

A Method To Increase Cerebral Blood Flow In Amyloid Angiopathy

of which the following is a full, clear and exact description.

A Method to Increase Cerebral Blood Flow In Amyloid
Angiopathy

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The invention disclosed herein was made with Government support under Grant No. PO1AG16233 from the National Institutes of Health of the U.S. Department of Public Health. Accordingly, the U.S. Government has certain rights in this
10 invention.

Background of the Invention

Throughout this application, various publications are
15 referenced by number. Full citations for these publications may be found listed at the end of the specification immediately preceding the claims. The disclosures of these publications in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application in order to more fully
20 describe the state of the art as known to those skilled therein as of the date of the invention described and claimed herein.

The pain of Alzheimer's disease results directly from the
25 memory loss and cognitive deficits suffered by the patient. These eventually result in the patient's loss of identity, autonomy, and freedom. As a step toward curing this disease, alleviating its symptoms, or retarding its progression, it would be desirable to develop a transgenic animal model
30 exhibiting the main debilitating phenotype of Alzheimer's disease, that is, memory loss, expressed concomitantly with the neuropathological correlates of Alzheimer's disease, for example, beta-amyloid accumulation, increased glial reactivity, and hippocampal cell loss.

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The present invention provides a method for decreasing cerebral vasoconstriction in a subject suffering from chronic or acute cerebral amyloid angiopathy which comprises administering to the subject an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE) in an effective amount to inhibit transcytosis of amyloid β peptides across the blood-brain barrier in the subject, thereby decreasing cerebral vasoconstriction in the subject. The invention further provides for a method for ameliorating neurovascular stress in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE), so as to increase cerebral blood flow in the subject, thereby ameliorating neurovascular stress in the subject.

The present invention provides a method for decreasing cerebral vasoconstriction in a subject suffering from chronic or acute cerebral amyloid angiopathy which comprises administering to the subject an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE) in an effective amount to inhibit transcytosis of amyloid β peptides across the blood-brain barrier in the subject, thereby decreasing cerebral vasoconstriction in the subject. The invention further provides for a method for ameliorating neurovascular stress in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE), so as to increase cerebral blood flow in the subject, thereby ameliorating neurovascular stress in the subject.

Brief Description of the Figures

Figures. 1A-1F. RAGE-dependent Amyloid beta ($A\beta$) binding to brain endothelium and *in vivo* transcytosis across the blood brain barrier (BBB) followed by rapid neuronal uptake of circulating $A\beta$ in mice. **Figure 1A** and **Figure 1B**, Binding to brain capillaries (a) and transport across the BBB (uptake by capillary-depleted brain expressed as cerebrovascular permeability product, PS) (b) of ^{125}I -labeled human $A\beta_{1-40}$ ($hA\beta_{1-40}^*$) and $A\beta_{1-42}$ ($hA\beta_{1-42}^*$), and murine $A\beta_{1-40}$ ($mA\beta_{1-40}^*$) infused into cerebral arterial circulation at 4 nM for 10 min via brain perfusion technique in the absence and presence of α -RAGE (40 mg/ml), sRAGE (40 nM), SR, scavenger receptor ligand - fucoidan (100 mg/ml), FNR5 (anti- β 1-integrin antibody, 40 mg/ml) or RHDS (40 nM); $hA\beta_{40-1}^*$ denotes ^{125}I -labeled scrambled peptide. **Figure 1C** and **Figure 1D**, Dose-dependent effect of α -RAGE (0.5 to 40 mg/ml) on brain capillary binding (c) and transport across the BBB (d) of ^{125}I - $A\beta_{1-40}$ ($hA\beta_{1-40}^*$). **Figure 1E**, Partial metabolic degradation of human $A\beta_{1-40}$ ($hA\beta_{1-40}^*$) and $A\beta_{1-42}$ ($hA\beta_{1-42}^*$) in brain parenchyma following 10 min of BBB transport of circulating ^{125}I -labeled peptides. **Figure 1F**, Immunocytochemical detection of $hA\beta_{1-40}$ with anti- $A\beta_{1-40}$ antibody (QCB) in brain parenchyma 10 min after its BBB transport in the absence (middle panel) and presence of α -RAGE, 40 mg/ml (right panel); control vehicle-infused brain is shown on a right panel. n = 3 to 5 mice per group. *p < 0.01.

Figures 2A-2D. Effect of RAGE blockade on $A\beta$ -induced cytokine expression and oxidant stress in brain after BBB transport of circulating $A\beta_{1-40}$. Expression of TNF- α mRNA (left) and protein (right) (**Figure 2A**), and immunocytochemical detection of IL-6 (**Figure 2B**) and HO-1

(**Figure 2C**) 15 min following transport of human $A\beta_{1-40}$ (4 nM) across the BBB in the presence or absence of α -RAGE (40 mg/ml) or sRAGE (40 nM) in the arterial inflow in a brain perfusion model. Vehicle-infused brains were also shown in **Figures 2A-2C** as control. Graphs in **Figures 2A-2C** illustrate image analysis of immunocytochemical experiments in which mice were treated with either vehicle, $A\beta_{1-40}$ alone, or $A\beta_{1-40}$ plus α -RAGE or sRAGE, as indicated. **Figure 2D**, Image analysis of mouse brains after 2 hrs of i.v. administration of $A\beta_{1-40}$ (4 nM) in the absence and presence of α -RAGE (40 mg/ml) or sRAGE (40 nM) infused 15 min prior to $A\beta_{1-40}$ infusion. n = 5 mice per group. *p < 0.01.

Figures 3A-3C. RAGE-dependent vasomotor effects of circulating $A\beta$. Decrease in CBF following i.v. administration of human $A\beta_{1-40}$ (4 nM) (**Figure 3A**) and effect of α -RAGE (40 mg/ml) (**Figures 3B-C**). α -RAGE (1-10 mg/ml) and sRAGE (40 nM) blocked CBF changes produced by murine or human $A\beta_{1-40}$; CBF values between 30 and 45 min after i.v. administration of peptides. sRAGE (40 nM) and IgG, lack of effect of an irrelevant IgG. n = 5 mice per group; *p < 0.01.

Figures 4A-4D. Effects of RAGE blockade on cerebral blood flow (CBF) in TgAPPsw+/- mice. **Figure 4A**, Baseline CBF values and arterial blood pressure in 9 months old TgAPPsw+/- mice and aged-matched control mice. **Figure 4B**, Significant increase in CBF in 9 months old TgAPPsw+/- mice following administration of α -RAGE (40 mg/ml); IgG, non-specific immunoglobulin **Figure 4C**, Image analysis of brains in TgAPPsw+/- mice for TNF- α , IL-6 and HO-1 2 hrs following treatment with either vehicle or α -RAGE (40 mg/ml). **Figure 4D**, Increased vascular expression of RAGE and $A\beta$ accumulation in Alzheimer's Disease (AD) brain. n = 5 mice per group; *p

< 0.01.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

This invention provides for a method for decreasing cerebral vasoconstriction in a subject suffering from chronic or acute cerebral amyloid angiopathy which comprises administering to the subject an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE) in an effective amount to inhibit transcytosis of amyloid β peptides across the blood-brain barrier in the subject, thereby decreasing cerebral vasoconstriction in the subject.

In one embodiment of the invention, the subject is a transgenic non-human animal or a human. In another embodiment of the invention, the non-human animal is a transgenic mouse which over-expresses mutant human amyloid beta precursor protein. In another embodiment of the invention, the subject suffers from Alzheimer's disease. In another embodiment of the invention, the chronic cerebral amyloid angiopathy is due to Alzheimer's disease, Down's syndrome, aging or angiopathy. In another embodiment of the invention, the acute cerebral amyloid angiopathy is due to head trauma, or stroke.

In one embodiment of the invention, the inhibitor is a molecule having a molecular weight from about 500 daltons to about 100 kilodaltons. In another embodiment of the invention, the inhibitor is an organic molecule or an inorganic molecule. In another embodiment of the invention, the inhibitor is a polypeptide or a nucleic acid molecule. In another embodiment of the invention, the inhibitor is soluble receptor for advanced glycation endproduct. In another embodiment of the invention, the inhibitor is an antibody which specifically binds to receptor for advanced

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The invention also provides for a method for ameliorating neurovascular stress in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE), so as to increase cerebral blood flow in the subject, thereby ameliorating neurovascular stress in the subject.

The invention also provides for a method for treating amyloid angiopathy in a subject who suffers therefrom which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE) activity so as to increase cerebral blood flow in the subject and thereby treat amyloid angiopathy in the subject.

25 The present invention provides for a method for determining whether a compound increases cerebral blood flow in a subject which comprises: (a) administering the compound to a non-human animal which exhibits at least one of the following
30 characteristics: a correlative memory deficit, elevation of amyloid β in the brain of the non-human animal, or amyloid β plaques in the brain of the non-human animal; (b) determining whether the non-human animal has increased

cerebral blood flow when compared to cerebral blood flow in an identical non-human animal which was not administered the test compound; wherein an increase in cerebral blood flow indicates that the test compound increases cerebral blood flow in a subject.

In one embodiment of the invention, the non-human animal is a transgenic non-human animal. In another embodiment of the invention, the non-human animal is a transgenic mouse which over-expresses mutant human amyloid beta precursor protein. In another embodiment of the invention, the non-human animal is a transgenic non-human animal which is an animal model for Alzheimer's disease.

In one embodiment of the invention, the non-human animal is a Swiss transgenic mouse designated Tg APP sw+/-.

4. In one embodiment of the invention, the compound is a molecule having a molecular weight from about 500 daltons to about 100 kilodaltons. In one embodiment of the invention, the compound is an organic molecule or an inorganic molecule. In one embodiment of the invention, the compound is a polypeptide or a nucleic acid molecule.

The invention also provides for a method for ameliorating neurovascular stress in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of RAGE, so as to increase cerebral blood flow in the subject, thereby ameliorating neurovascular stress in the subject.

In one embodiment of the invention, the inhibitor of RAGE

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is soluble RAGE. In another embodiment of the invention, the neurovascular stress comprises amyloid angiopathy. In another embodiment of the invention, the neurovascular stress is caused by Alzheimer's disease or aging of the subject.

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The invention also provides for a method for treating amyloid angiopathy in a subject who suffers therefrom which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of receptor for advanced glycation endproduct
10 (RAGE) activity so as to increase cerebral blood flow in the subject and thereby treat amyloid angiopathy in the subject.

The invention also provides for a method for treating cerebral amyloid angiopathy in a subject who suffers
15 therefrom which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound determined to inhibit activity of receptor for advanced glycation endproducts (RAGE) in the method described hereinabove for determining whether a compound increases cerebral blood flow in a subject.

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Definitions

"DNA sequence" is a linear sequence comprised of any combination of the four DNA monomers, i.e., nucleotides of
25 adenine, guanine, cytosine and thymine, which codes for genetic information, such as a code for an amino acid, a promoter, a control or a gene product. A specific DNA sequence is one which has a known specific function, e.g., codes for a particular polypeptide, a particular genetic
30 trait or affects the expression of a particular phenotype.

"Genotype" is the genetic constitution of an organism.

"Phenotype" is a collection of morphological, physiological and biochemical traits possessed by a cell or organism that results from the interaction of the genotype and the environment.

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"Phenotypic expression" is the expression of the code of a DNA sequence or sequences which results in the production of a product, e.g., a polypeptide or protein, or alters the expression of the zygote's or the organisms natural
10 phenotype.

"Zygote" is a diploid cell having the potential for development into a complete organism. The zygote can result from parthenogenesis, nuclear transplantation, the merger of
15 two gametes by artificial or natural fertilization or any other method which creates a diploid cell having the potential for development into a complete organism. The origin of the zygote can be from either the plant or animal kingdom.

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In the practice of any of the methods of the invention or preparation of any of the pharmaceutical compositions an "therapeutically effective amount" is an amount which is capable of alleviating the symptoms of the disorder of memory
25 or learning in the subject. Accordingly, the effective amount will vary with the subject being treated, as well as the condition to be treated. For the purposes of this invention, the methods of administration are to include, but are not limited to, administration cutaneously,
30 subcutaneously, intravenously, parenterally, orally, topically, or by aerosol.

By "nervous system-specific" is meant that expression of a

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Nucleotide and Amino Acid sequences of RAGE

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LOCUS BOVRAGE 1426 bp mRNA MAM 09-DEC-1993 DEFINITION Cow

receptor for advanced glycosylation end products (RAGE) mRNA,
complete cds.

ACCESSION M91212VERSION M91212.1 GI:163650

KEYWORDS RAGE; cell surface receptor.

- 5 SOURCE Bos taurus cDNA to mRNA. ORGANISM Bos taurus
Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata;
Euteleostomi; Mammalia; Eutheria; Cetartiodactyla;
Ruminantia; Pecora; Bovoidea; Bovidae; Bovinae; Bos.
REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 1426) AUTHORS Neeper,M.,
10 Schmidt,A.M., Brett,J., Yan,S.D., Wang,F., Pan,Y.C.,
Elliston,K., Stern,D. and Shaw,A. TITLE Cloning and
expression of a cell surface receptor for advanced
glycosylation end products of proteins
JOURNAL J. Biol. Chem. 267, 14998-15004 (1992)
15 MEDLINE 92340547 REFERENCE 2 (bases 1 to 1426) AUTHORS
Shaw,A. TITLE Direct Submission JOURNAL Submitted (15-APR-
1992) A. Shaw, Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology,
Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories, West Point, PA
19486
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LOCUS HUMRAGE 1391 bp mRNA PRI 09-DEC-1993

DEFINITION Human receptor for advanced glycosylation end products (RAGE) mRNA,
partial cds.

ACCESSION M91211 VERSION M91211.1 GI:190845

10 KEYWORDS RAGE; cell surface receptor.

SOURCE Homo sapiens cDNA to mRNA.

ORGANISM Homo sapiens Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata;
Euteleostomi; Mammalia; Eutheria; Primates; Catarrhini; Hominidae; Homo.

REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 1391)

15 AUTHORS Neeper,M., Schmidt,A.M., Brett,J., Yan,S.D., Wang,F., Pan,Y.C., Elliston,K.,
Stern,D. and Shaw,A.

TITLE Cloning and expression of a cell surface receptor for advanced glycosylation end
products of proteins

JOURNAL J. Biol. Chem. 267, 14998-15004 (1992)

20 MEDLINE 92340547

REFERENCE 2 (bases 1 to 1391)

AUTHORS Shaw,A.

TITLE Direct Submission

25 JOURNAL Submitted (15-APR-1992) A. Shaw, Department of Cellular and Molecular
Biology, Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories, West Point, PA 19486 USA

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LOCUS MUSRECEP 1348 bp mRNA ROD 23-AUG-1994

DEFINITION Mouse receptor for advanced glycosylation end products (RAGE) gene,
5 complete cds.

ACCESSION L33412VERSION L33412.1 GI:532208

KEYWORDS receptor for advanced glycosylation end products.

SOURCE Mus musculus (strain BALB/c, sub_species domesticus) (library: lambda gt10)
male adult lung cDNA to mRNA.

10 ORGANISM Mus musculus Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata;
Euteleostomi; Mammalia; Eutheria; Rodentia; Sciurognathi; Muridae; Murinae; Mus.

REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 1348)

AUTHORS Lundh,E.R., Morser,J., McClary,J. and Nagashima,M.

15 TITLE Isolation and characterization of cDNA encoding the murine and rat homologues
of the mammalian receptor for advanced glycosylation end products

JOURNAL UnpublishedCOMMENT On Aug 24, 1994 this sequence version replaced
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961 tcacagaaac cggcgatgag gggccagctg aaggctctgt gggtagtct gggctgggta
25 1021 cgctagccct ggccttgggg atcctgggag gcctgggagt agtagccctg ctctcgggg
1081 ctatcctgtg gcgaaaacga caaccaggc gtgaggagag gaaggccccg gaaagccagg
1141 aggatgagga ggaacgtgca gagctgaatc agtcagagga agcggagatg ccagagaatg
1201 gtgccggggg accgtaagag caccagatc gagcctgtgt gatggcccta gacagctcc
1261 cccacattcc atccaatc ctcttgagg cacttcctc tccaaccaga gccacatga
30 1321 tccatgctga gtaaacttt gatacggc// (SEQ ID NO:6)

001120-013630

Inhibitors of RAGE:

Inhibitors of RAGE include any molecule which, when introduced into a cell or a subject, is capable of inhibiting the biological activity of RAGE. For example, one such inhibitor would be able to inhibit the activity of RAGE as described: the activity of transcytosis of amyloid beta peptides across the blood brain barrier within a subject.

Examples of an inhibitor of RAGE activity are soluble RAGE, an antibody which specifically binds to RAGE, a truncated version of RAGE which is capable of acting as a competitive inhibitor of RAGE. A fragment of RAGE which includes the amyloid beta peptide binding portion of RAGE and introduced into the cell or subject as a soluble polypeptide. Other types of inhibitors would be known to one of skill in the art. For example, a small molecule could be prepared which mimics the amyloid beta peptide binding region of RAGE and administered alone as an inhibitor.

Pharmaceutical compositions and Carriers

As used herein, the term "suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" encompasses any of the standard pharmaceutically accepted carriers, such as phosphate buffered saline solution, water, emulsions such as an oil/water emulsion or a triglyceride emulsion, various types of wetting agents, tablets, coated tablets and capsules. An example of an acceptable triglyceride emulsion useful in intravenous and intraperitoneal administration of the compounds is the triglyceride emulsion commercially known as Intralipid®.

Typically such carriers contain excipients such as starch, milk, sugar, certain types of clay, gelatin, stearic acid, talc, vegetable fats or oils, gums, glycols, or other known excipients. Such carriers may also include flavor and color
5 additives or other ingredients.

This invention also provides for pharmaceutical compositions including therapeutically effective amounts of protein compositions and compounds together with suitable diluents,
10 preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants and/or carriers useful in treatment of neuronal degradation due to aging, a learning disability, or a neurological disorder. Such compositions are liquids or lyophilized or otherwise dried formulations and include diluents of various buffer
15 content (e.g., Tris-HCl., acetate, phosphate), pH and ionic strength, additives such as albumin or gelatin to prevent absorption to surfaces, detergents (e.g., Tween 20, Tween 80, Pluronic F68, bile acid salts), solubilizing agents (e.g., glycerol, polyethylene glycerol), anti-oxidants (e.g.,
20 ascorbic acid, sodium metabisulfite), preservatives (e.g., Thimerosal, benzyl alcohol, parabens), bulking substances or tonicity modifiers (e.g., lactose, mannitol), covalent attachment of polymers such as polyethylene glycol to the compound, complexation with metal ions, or incorporation of
25 the compound into or onto particulate preparations of polymeric compounds such as polylactic acid, polglycolic acid, hydrogels, etc, or onto liposomes, micro emulsions, micelles, unilamellar or multi lamellar vesicles, erythrocyte ghosts, or spheroplasts. Such compositions will influence
30 the physical state, solubility, stability, rate of in vivo release, and rate of in vivo clearance of the compound or composition. The choice of compositions will depend on the physical and chemical properties of the compound.

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Portions of the compound of the invention may be "labeled" by association with a detectable marker substance (e.g., radiolabeled with ¹²⁵I or biotinylated) to provide reagents useful in detection and quantification of compound or its receptor bearing cells or its derivatives in solid tissue and fluid samples such as blood, cerebral spinal fluid or urine.

When administered, compounds are often cleared rapidly from the circulation and may therefore elicit relatively short-lived pharmacological activity. Consequently, frequent injections of relatively large doses of bioactive compounds may be required to sustain therapeutic efficacy. Compounds modified by the covalent attachment of water-soluble polymers such as polyethylene glycol, copolymers of polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol, carboxymethyl cellulose, dextran, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone or polyproline are known to exhibit substantially longer half-lives in blood following intravenous injection than do the corresponding unmodified compounds (Abuchowski et al., 1981; Newmark et al., 1982; and Katre et al., 1987). Such modifications may also increase the compound's solubility in

Portions of the compound of the invention may be "labeled" by association with a detectable marker substance (e.g., radiolabeled with ^{125}I or biotinylated) to provide reagents useful in detection and quantification of compound or its receptor bearing cells or its derivatives in solid tissue and fluid samples such as blood, cerebral spinal fluid or urine.

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aqueous solution, eliminate aggregation, enhance the physical and chemical stability of the compound, and greatly reduce the immunogenicity and reactivity of the compound. As a result, the desired *in vivo* biological activity may be achieved by the administration of such polymer-compound adducts less frequently or in lower doses than with the unmodified compound.

Attachment of polyethylene glycol (PEG) to compounds is particularly useful because PEG has very low toxicity in mammals (Carpenter et al., 1971). For example, a PEG adduct of adenosine deaminase was approved in the United States for use in humans for the treatment of severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome. A second advantage afforded by the conjugation of PEG is that of effectively reducing the immunogenicity and antigenicity of heterologous compounds. For example, a PEG adduct of a human protein might be useful for the treatment of disease in other mammalian species without the risk of triggering a severe immune response. The compound of the present invention capable of alleviating symptoms of a cognitive disorder of memory or learning may be delivered in a microencapsulation device so as to reduce or prevent an host immune response against the compound or against cells which may produce the compound. The compound of the present invention may also be delivered microencapsulated in a membrane, such as a liposome.

Polymers such as PEG may be conveniently attached to one or more reactive amino acid residues in a protein such as the alpha-amino group of the amino terminal amino acid, the epsilon amino groups of lysine side chains, the sulfhydryl groups of cysteine side chains, the carboxyl groups of aspartyl and glutamyl side chains, the alpha-carboxyl group

of the carboxy-terminal amino acid, tyrosine side chains, or to activated derivatives of glycosyl chains attached to certain asparagine, serine or threonine residues.

5 Numerous activated forms of PEG suitable for direct reaction with proteins have been described. Useful PEG reagents for reaction with protein amino groups include active esters of carboxylic acid or carbonate derivatives, particularly those in which the leaving groups are N-hydroxysuccinimide, p-
10 nitrophenol, imidazole or 1-hydroxy-2-nitrobenzene-4-sulfonate. PEG derivatives containing maleimido or haloacetyl groups are useful reagents for the modification of protein free sulfhydryl groups. Likewise, PEG reagents containing amino hydrazine or hydrazide groups are useful for
15 reaction with aldehydes generated by periodate oxidation of carbohydrate groups in proteins.

In one embodiment the compound of the present invention is associated with a pharmaceutical carrier which includes a
20 pharmaceutical composition. The pharmaceutical carrier may be a liquid and the pharmaceutical composition would be in the form of a solution. In another embodiment, the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a solid and the composition is in the form of a powder or tablet. In a
25 further embodiment, the pharmaceutical carrier is a gel and the composition is in the form of a suppository or cream. In a further embodiment the active ingredient may be formulated as a part of a pharmaceutically acceptable transdermal patch.

30

Transgenic Technology and Methods

The following U.S. Patents are hereby incorporated by

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For sometime it has been known that it is possible to carry
30 out the genetic transformation of a zygote (and the embryo
and mature organism which result therefrom) by the placing
or insertion of exogenous genetic material into the nucleus
of the zygote or to any nucleic genetic material which

The genotype of the exogenous genetic material is expressed upon the cellular division of the zygote. However, the phenotype expression, e.g., the production of a protein product or products of the exogenous genetic material, or alterations of the zygote's or organism's natural phenotype, will occur at that point of the zygote's or organism's development during which the particular exogenous genetic material is active. Alterations of the expression of the phenotype include an enhancement or diminution in the expression of a phenotype or an alteration in the promotion and/or control of a phenotype, including the addition of a new promoter and/or controller or supplementation of an existing promoter and/or controller of the phenotype.

The genetic transformation of various types of organisms is disclosed and described in detail in U.S. Pat. No. 4,873,191, issued Oct. 10, 1989, which is incorporated herein by reference to disclose methods of producing transgenic organisms. The genetic transformation of organisms can be used as an in vivo analysis of gene expression during differentiation and in the elimination or diminution of genetic diseases by either gene therapy or by using a transgenic non-human mammal as a model system of a human disease. This model system can be used to test putative drugs for their potential therapeutic value in humans.

The exogenous genetic material can be placed in the nucleus of a mature egg. It is preferred that the egg be in a fertilized or activated (by parthenogenesis) state. After the addition of the exogenous genetic material, a complementary
5 haploid set of chromosomes (e.g., a sperm cell or polar body) is added to enable the formation of a zygote. The zygote is allowed to develop into an organism such as by implanting it in a pseudopregnant female. The resulting organism is analyzed for the integration of the exogenous genetic
10 material. If positive integration is determined, the organism can be used for the in vivo analysis of the gene expression, which expression is believed to be related to a particular genetic disease.

15 Attempts have been made to study a number of different types of genetic diseases utilizing such transgenic animals. Attempts related to studying Alzheimer's disease are disclosed within published PCT application WO89/06689 and PCT application WO89/06693, both published on Jul. 27, 1989,
20 which published applications are incorporated herein by reference to disclose genetic sequences coding for Alzheimer's .beta.-amyloid protein and the incorporation of such sequences into the genome of transgenic animals.

25 Embryonal target cells at various developmental stages can be used to introduce transgenes. Different methods are used depending on the stage of development of the embryonal target cell. The zygote is the best target for micro-injection. In the mouse, the male pronucleus reaches the size of
30 approximately 20 micrometers in diameter which allows reproducible injection of 1-2 pl of DNA solution. The use of zygotes as a target for gene transfer has a major advantage in that in most cases the injected DNA will be incorporated

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A third type of target cell for transgene introduction is the embryonal stem cell (ES). ES cells are obtained from pre-implantation embryos cultured in vitro and fused with embryos (Evans, M. J., et al. (1981) Nature 292, 154-156; Bradley, M. O., et al. (1984) Nature 309, 255-258; Gossler, et al. (1986) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci U.S.A. 83, 9065-9069; and Robertson, et al. (1986) Nature 322, 445-448). Transgenes can be efficiently introduced into the ES cells by DNA transfection or by retrovirus-mediated transduction. Such transformed ES cells can thereafter be combined with blastocysts from a non-human animal. The ES cells thereafter colonize the embryo and contribute to the germ line of the resulting chimeric animal. For review see Jaenisch, R. (1988) Science 240, 1468-1474.

The disclosures of publications referenced in this application in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application in order to more fully describe the state of the art as known to those skilled therein as of the date of the invention described and claimed herein.

5

EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Example 1: Receptor for Advanced Glycation Endproduct (RAGE)- dependent neurovascular dysfunction caused by amyloid- β peptide

Amyloid-beta peptides ($A\beta$) are important in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's dementia. We show that RAGE mediates $A\beta$ transport across the blood-brain barrier (BBB) in mice followed by its rapid neuronal uptake, cytokine response, oxidant stress and reductions in the cerebral blood flow (CBF). Antagonizing RAGE in transgenic mice that overexpress mutant human $A\beta$ precursor protein restored the CBF and ameliorated neurovascular stress. In Alzheimer's brains, vascular expression of RAGE was associated with $A\beta$ accumulation. We suggest that RAGE at the BBB is a potential target for inhibiting vascular accumulation of $A\beta$ and for limiting cellular stress and ischemic changes in Alzheimer's dementia.

Deposition of $A\beta$ in the CNS occurs during normal aging and is accelerated by Alzheimer's Disease (AD). ¹⁻⁴ $A\beta$ is implicated in neuropathology of AD and related disorders. ¹⁻⁴ $A\beta$ peptides have neurotoxic properties *in vitro* ⁵⁻⁷ and *in vivo*, ⁸⁻¹⁰ and induce neuronal oxidant stress directly and indirectly by activating microglia. ¹¹⁻¹³ $A\beta$ generates superoxide radicals in brain endothelium, ¹⁴ and at higher concentrations may damage endothelial cells. ¹⁵ Recent studies from our and other laboratories suggest a major role of the blood-brain barrier (BBB) in determining the concentrations of $A\beta$ in the CNS. ¹⁶⁻²⁵ The BBB controls the entry of plasma-derived $A\beta$ and its binding transport proteins into the CNS, and regulates the levels of brain-derived $A\beta$

via clearance mechanisms.

RAGE (receptor for advanced glycation end-product), a multiligand receptor in the immunoglobulin superfamily binds free A β in the nanomolar range, and mediates pathophysiological cellular responses when occupied by glycated ligands, A β , S100/calgranulins or serum amyloid A.^{24,26-28} RAGE is up-regulated on microglia and vascular endothelium in AD brains.^{29,30} We have recently reported that RAGE may be involved in transport of A β across human brain endothelial monolayers.^{24,31} Our current study demonstrates that RAGE mediates *in vivo* transcytosis of A β ₁₋₄₀ and A β ₁₋₄₂ across the BBB in mice. RAGE-dependent BBB transport of A β was coupled to its rapid neuronal uptake, induction of cellular stress and transient, but significant suppression of cerebral blood flow (CBF). Antagonizing RAGE in transgenic mice that overexpress mutant human A β precursor protein (APP) restored the CBF and ameliorated cellular stress. In Alzheimer's brains, vascular expression of RAGE was associated with A β accumulation. These data support the possibility that inhibiting RAGE at the BBB may limit vascular accumulation of A β and reduce cellular stress and ischemic changes in Alzheimer's dementia.

RAGE mediates *in vivo* transcytosis of A β across the BBB

RAGE-dependent binding to brain microvessels (Fig. 1a) and transport across the BBB (Fig. 1b) of human and mouse A β ₁₋₄₀, and somewhat slower, but significant RAGE-dependent BBB transport of A β ₁₋₄₂ (Fig. 1b) and absence of its significant binding to microvessels (Fig. 1a) were found in mice (shown in Fig. 1) and guinea pigs. A β transport into brain was significantly inhibited by 65% to 85% by circulating α -RAGE

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decrease in the CBF, but did not affect systemic arterial blood pressure (Fig. 3a). Reductions in the CBF were detectable after 20-30 min of A β administration, and maximal decrease in the CBF was observed between 40-60 min. CBF changes were completely antagonized by circulating α -RAGE at 40 μ g/ml (Fig. 3b). A β -induced cerebral vasospasm was antagonized by α -RAGE in a dose-dependent manner, was abolished by sRAGE, but was not affected by an irrelevant antibody (Fig. 3c).

10

RAGE blockade restores the CBF in Tg APP sw+/- mice

Fig. 4a shows significant decrease in basal CBF values in 9 months old Tg APPsw+/- mice compared to age-matched control mice as determined by laser Doppler flowmetry, and confirmed by quantitative autoradiographic analysis. There was no difference in the arterial blood pressure between wild type and Tg APPsw+/- mice (Fig. 4a). Infusion of α -RAGE dramatically increased the CBF in Tg APPsw+/- mice (Fig. 4b), and the effect was maximal between 60-120 min after systemic administration of α -RAGE. An irrelevant IgG did not affect the CBF in Tg APPsw+/- animals (Fig. 4b). Systemic administration of α -RAGE ameliorated cellular stress in brain of 9 month old Tg APPsw+/- mice, as indicated by moderate reduction in expression of TNF- α , IL-6 and HO-1 (Fig. 4c). Expression of RAGE on brain microvessels was enhanced in Tg APPsw+/- mice (Fig. 4d left), and increased vascular expression of RAGE was associated with accumulation of A β in AD brains (Fig 4d right).

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Discussion

These data demonstrate that RAGE has an important role in A β -mediated uptake at the BBB and its transport into the central

nervous system, as well as A β -mediated cellular perturbation.

The first set of studies employed synthetic A β infused in to wild-type mice, and the results apply to acute exposure of vasculature to A β .

This invention provides the following methods:

A method for blockading RAGE, with either sRAGE or anti-RAGE IgG which thereby,

- suppresses binding to and uptake of A β in relation to the vessel wall

- inhibits A β -induced cell stress in the vasculature and in neurons, consequent to systemic infusion of A β

Such an experimental model, although artificial, may be directly relevant to head trauma, stroke and other disorders in which there are acute elevations of A β .

The second set of studies uses the Hsiao mice (reference for these is Hisao K, Chapman P, Nilsen S, Eckman C, Harigaya Y, Younkin S, Yang F, Cole G: correlative memory deficits, A β elevation, and amyloid plaques in transgenic mice. Science 274:99, 1996). These experiments suggests that chronic exposure of vasculature to A β results in RAGE-dependent vasoconstriction- thus, a RAGE blocker would be expected to increase cerebral blood flow in patients with increased levels of amyloid-beta peptide (at least when A β is in the blood or blood vessel wall). These mice were made using the prion promoter, which expresses amyloid precursor protein in neurons and glial cells, predominately, but some seems to get into the vasculature as well. These mice are considered a

5 for cerebral function, thus, increasing blood flow would be considered (at least indirectly) neuroprotective.

10 Alzheimer's-type pathology.

Methods

Synthetic peptides: A β ₁₋₄₀ and A β ₁₋₄₂ human forms, and A β ₁₋₄₀ murine form were synthesized at the W M Keck Facility at Yale University using solid-phase tBOC(N-tert-butylloxycarbonyl)-chemistry, purified by HPLC, and the final products lyophilized and characterized by analytical reverse-phase HPLC, amino acid analysis, laser desorption mass spectrometry, as we previously described.^{22,24} Stock solutions were prepared in DMSO to assure monomeric species, and kept at -80°C until use.

Radioiodination: of A β was carried out with Na[¹²⁵I] and Iodobeads (Pierce), and the resulting components resolved by HPLC. ^{22,24}

Animals and tissue preparation: TgAPPsw+/- mice (bearing the double mutation Lys670Asn, Met671Leu) 9 months of age were in a mixed C57B6/SJL background, as were age-matched wild type control mice were used throughout the study. Animals were screened for the presence of the APP transgenes by PCR as described.³⁵ For histology, mice received intraperitoneal (i.p.) pentobarbital (150 mg/kg) and were perfused

transcardially with 0.1M PBS (pH 7.4) at 4°C. The right hemisphere was immersion-fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) at 4°C overnight. The brain was cryoprotected in 30% sucrose in PBS at 4°C, and then fixed
5 in paraformaldehyde as above at 4°C.

Cerebral blood flow measurement: CBF was monitored by Laser Doppler Flowmetry (LDF, Transonic BLF21, NY) as we described.

³⁶ LDF probes (0.8 mm diameter) were positioned on the
10 cortical surface 2 mm posterior to the bregma, both 3 and 6 mm to each side of midline. The CBF was also determined by quantitative autoradiography using ¹⁴C-iodoantipyrine (IAP) using recently reported modified method in the whole mouse.
³⁷ Briefly, 0.15 μ Ci ¹⁴C-IAP was injected i.p. and animals
15 sacrificed after 2 min. Blood from the frozen heart was sampled to obtain the final blood ¹⁴C-IAP level. Frozen brains were coronally sectioned at 20 μ m and exposed to autoradiographic film along with radioactive ¹⁴C standards. After a 5 day exposure, the film was developed and the
20 resulting images analyzed by quantitative autoradiography to determine levels of ¹⁴C-IAP in individual brain regions. The CBF was calculated as reported: ^{37,40} $F = -\lambda \ln (1 - C_{IN(T)} / \lambda C_{PL}) / T$, where F is the rate of flow per unit mass (⁻¹), $C_{IN(T)}$ is activity in unit weight of brain at time T, C_{PL} is the
25 concentration of ¹⁴C-IAP in the blood, and λ is the distribution ratio of ¹⁴C-IAP between brain and the perfusion medium or blood at the steady state, i.e. 0.8.

AB (4 nM/l) or vehicle were administered via femoral vein (n
30 = 5 per group). α -RAGE, sRAGE etc.

Brain perfusion model. This model has been extensively used to determine peptide and protein binding to and transport across the BBB. ^{22,23,38,39} For intra-arterial brain perfusion
35 technique mice were anesthetized with i.p. ketamine (0.5

mg/kg) and xylazine (5 mg/kg), and the right common carotid artery isolated and connected to an extracorporeal perfusion circuit via fine polyethylene cannula (PE10). Details of the extracorporeal perfusion circuit were as reported elsewhere.

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depleted brain to quantify *in vivo* binding to microvessels vs. transport into brain parenchyma, as we reported. ^{22,23}

Mathematical modeling for transport studies. We have reported details of mathematical analysis elsewhere. ^{22,23,38,39} The uptake values for ¹²⁵I- A β were based on the amount of intact molecule as determined by the TCA and HPLC analysis. The rate of entry (K_{IN}) is computed from eq. 1: $d[C_{IN} (TEST-MOLECULE) - C_{IN} (ALBUMIN)]/dt = K_{IN} C_{PL} - K_{OUT} [C_{IN} (TEST-MOLECULE) - C_{IN} (ALBUMIN)]$, where K_{OUT} is exit or efflux transfer coefficient, and R is the steady state or equilibrium ratio. Eq. 1 is integrated to give $[C_{IN} (TEST-MOLECULE) - C_{IN} (ALBUMIN)]/C_{PL} = R (1 - e^{-K_{OUT} T})$ (eq. 2). R is the steady state ratio, and the ratio K_{IN}/K_{OUT} at infinite time, and T is infusion time. Numerical values for K_{OUT} may be obtained from the slope of the plot of $\ln (R - [C_{IN} (TEST-MOLECULE) - C_{IN} (ALBUMIN)]/C_{PL})$ (eq. 3) against T , using the equation $K_{OUT} = -\ln(R - [C_{IN} (TEST-MOLECULE) - C_{IN} (ALBUMIN)]/C_{PL})/T$ (eq. 4). Finally, the value for K_{IN} is derived by substituting the number for K_{OUT} in: $K_{IN} = R K_{OUT}$ (eq. 5). When tracer uptake remains linear over studied period of time, the exist constant approaches zero, and $K_{IN} = d[C_{IN} (TEST-MOLECULE) - C_{IN} (ALBUMIN)]/dt C_{PL}$. The K_{IN} represents the fraction of circulating radioactive ligands that is taken up intact by 1 g of brain from 1 ml of plasma in 1 min, and is the same as the PS product if K_{IN} or $PS \ll CBF$, ³⁹ a condition satisfied by A β . Advanced graphics software and the MLAB mathematical modeling system (as above) will be used to obtain graphic plots and compute transfer coefficients.

Immunocytochemical analysis: for TNF- α , IL-6 and HO-1 in brains of wild type mice and TgAPPsw+/- mice was performed using standard techniques, as described (26). Briefly, fresh-frozen, acetone-fixed brain sections of wild type and

TgAPPsw+/- mice were stained with anti-TNF- α IgG (Santa Cruz), anti-IL-6 IgG (Santa Cruz and anti-HO-1 IgG (StressGen) as primary antibodies. The extent and intensity of staining in cellular elements was quantitated using the
5 Universal Imaging System and NIH imaging systems. The relative intensity of cellular staining in control brain sections was compared to treated brains. Routine control sections included deletion of primary antibody, deletion of secondary antibody and the use of an irrelevant primary
10 antibody.

Statistical analysis. Data from the proposed studies were analyzed by multifactorial analysis of variance (ANOVA) that ranged from one-way to three-way ANOVA. Each ANOVA included
15 an analysis of residuals as a check on the required assumptions of normally distributed errors with constant variance. In the event the required assumptions were not satisfied, data transformations were considered. Appropriate multiple comparisons were included as a part of each
20 analysis. For pair-wise comparisons, the Tukey method was used, and for comparisons with a control group we used Dunnett's test.

Example 2: RAGE at the Blood Brain Barrier Mediates
25 Neurovascular Dysfunction Caused by Amyloid β_{1-40} peptide

Amyloid-beta peptides ($A\beta$) are important in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's dementia. We found that the receptor for advanced glycation end products (RAGE) mediates *in vivo*
30 transcytosis of circulating $A\beta_{1-40}$ across the blood-brain barrier (BBB) in mice. In an acute model in mice, blood to brain transport of $A\beta_{1-40}$ (1-4 nM final plasma concentration) was coupled to its rapid neuronal uptake, cytokine responses

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